

**IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație**

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

**Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-
Moldova Mobility Partnership**

1. Name of applicant: IOM Mission to Republic of Moldova

2. Target group(s): (Potential) returning migrants and their families, diaspora associations, children and elderly left behind, Ministry of Economy (ME), Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPPF; formerly under the old Government structure Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (MSPFC), National Employment Agency (NEA), Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (OSME), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), Bureau for Interethnic Relations (BIER), Moldovan Academy of Sciences.

3. Final beneficiaries: (Potential) returning migrants and their families, diaspora associations, children and elderly left behind, Moldovan entrepreneurs/ loan applicants attempting to start or improve their business in RM, women and youth entrepreneurs, diaspora scientists, research and development community in Moldova, Moldovan professionals and university graduates of foreign universities.

4. Countries Covered: Moldova

5. Partner(s): Ministry of Economy (ME), Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPPF; formerly under the old Government structure Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (MSPFC) National Employment Agency (NEA), Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (OSME), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), Bureau for Interethnic Relations (BIER), diaspora associations, Moldovan Academy of Sciences; ILO, World Bank, IMF, UNECE, OECD, UNHCR (to be confirmed).

6. Total duration of the action: 36 months

7. Budget: EUR 1,999,734.77

8. Objectives of the action

Overall Objectives:

To support the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU Moldova Mobility Partnership (MP) through the following interventions in the policy and institutional areas:

1. Strengthening the Moldovan institutional capacity to better manage all aspects of migratory flows by establishing a Migration Technical Facility and a Migration Profile.
2. Improving the Moldovan Government's capacity in diaspora programming in line with the diaspora National Action Plan and enhance the capacity of Moldovan migrant associations in the destination countries to become active in support of local development in Moldova.
3. Supporting implementation by the Moldovan Government of the National Return Action Plan by enhancing the social security and protection of the Moldovan migrants working abroad, developing and implementing – on a pilot base – innovative temporary and permanent return and reintegration programs, as well as initiatives of economic empowerment for youth and women.
4. Identifying, developing and implementing activities targeting family members left behind by migrants, taking into account their vulnerability.

Specific Objective

To support the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership in order to minimize the negative effects of migration and to harness the benefits of migration for development purposes.

9. Background and justification

The migration wave from 2000 onwards, although recently slightly reduced under the influence of the global financial crisis, has had a deep impact on the Republic of Moldova's development and various consequences which have to be addressed in a comprehensive way to achieve sustainable results. It is generally admitted that approximately one fourth of Moldova's labour force is residing abroad, be it in a legal or irregular situation. Both IOM research and National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova figures indicate that a minimum of 300 000 Moldovan nationals reside and work abroad. In addition to these absentees, which are identified by surveys and statistical analyses because they are still part of Moldovan households, an estimated equally large number of Moldovans have permanently established themselves and their families in recipient countries. There is a risk that they will be permanently lost for the country but they can also be viewed as potential actors in Moldova's development, beyond the remittances they transfer to their families. Negative consequences of migration include a massive brain- and skills-drain, affecting the public and the private sectors and the exploitation of migrants abroad, including trafficking. One very worrying aspect of this massive migration is the often referred-to, yet very little known phenomenon of the children and elderly left behind. As a consequence of massive out-migration it is estimated that between 150-270 thousand children aged 0-14 have been left by one parent and 40,000 by both migrating parents¹. A major aspect of the massive labour migration is the remittances migrants send home to family and relatives. The remittances, which reached a peak of more than 1.6 billion USD and a ratio of more than 30% compared with the GDP in 2008, represented a large share of the disposable income of a sizeable part of the Moldovan households. In the first months of 2009 the global financial crisis has not, contrary to many predictions, occasioned a massive flow of return migration but at the same time remittances have registered a significant drop, which could lead to a further deterioration in poverty and human development situation in the country. Migrating remains an attractive opportunity and remittances will likely remain for the medium term a mainstay of the Moldovan economy. That is why continued efforts to enhance the homeland development potential of migrants and offset detrimental social consequences of migration remains of decisive importance.

In this general context, several target groups and institutional actors should benefit of special attention, as follows:

A. Moldovan migration management policy and institutional framework development

Republic of Moldova, as a source and transit country of irregular migration, requires capacity-building assistance to develop more effective migration management institutional framework and policies. Coherence of national migration policies requires appropriate compilation and availability of internationally comparable migration data, national policy coordination, active cooperation among involved authorities and active international cooperation in legislation at the bilateral, regional and global levels. Given the span of functions, number of participating institutions, complexity and urgency of issues to be dealt with and lack of staff assigned to perform the respective tasks, a special unit needs to be created, to support the operation of the national Migration Management institutional framework. The Government needs access to more timely, accurate and detailed data and analysis of the factors driving migration. It requires a more extensive understanding of the ways in which migration and other policies affecting migration impact on each other. The capacity of Government needs to be strengthened to understand and assess the actual and potential sources of regular and irregular migration and the effectiveness of national and regional migration policies. A key challenge faced by the Government is how to manage the substantial regular and irregular migration and its interaction with development. The lack of adequate information and analysis of the actual and potential factors driving migration limit the ability of Government to devise appropriate migration policies, addressing in a targeted manner different categories of migrants, as well as children and elderly left behind and their specific needs. Therefore, in order to effectively tailor the policy responses that need to be developed, additional data is required to deepen the analysis of their profile. Moreover, existing data and evidence relating to migration tends to be scattered and needs to be brought together in a more comprehensive and systematic fashion to ease policy development. The creation of Migration Profile will help to promote greater coherence and a more comprehensive approach to migration planning and policies.

¹ See http://hdr.undp.org/docs/network/hdr_net/Moldova_Impact_migration_remittances.doc

The Migration Profile is a reference tool for supporting the national policies in the area of migration and development. The Migration Profile can serve the interests of the partner country, the EC and the EU Member States, providing information on the situation in the partner country, especially as regards legal labour migration, illegal flows (including transit flows), asylum seekers and the labour market analysis to provide information on the impact of migration on the socio-economic development of the partner country. The Migration Profile can also lead to a better understanding by all the parties of migration realities in Moldova and will provide the basis for an improved policy planning. Moreover, the Migration Profile can be used in monitoring the impact of the MP, and to this end a set of benchmarks will be elaborated and applied.

The present project will formulate, in close cooperation with Moldovan relevant institutions, a template for Migration Profile, and establish a follow-up mechanism to ensure sustainability of Migration Profile as a national policy instrument. The formulation and preparation of a standardized Migration Profile, together with policy briefs, will build on and complement ongoing activities of national research institutes and regional bodies, including the preparation and implementation of country poverty reduction and other strategy papers. Inter-ministerial, inter-agency working groups on national strategic policy planning at national level, and technical sub-groups on key migration policy themes will be established, which will help to develop and implement the Migration Profile and promote strategic policy planning; standardized indicators for a template of a Migration Profile will be defined in close cooperation with relevant national authorities; a national research team will conduct an audit of existing information and data on the selected indicators; the Migration Profile will be completed by pilot-testing data collection methodology/template and conducting a targeted study on gaps identified in the audit.

To establish a follow-up mechanism ensuring sustainability of Migration Profile as a national policy instrument, a national training curriculum and a toolkit of self-teaching training modules will be developed to strengthen the capacity of the Government to implement and regularly update the Migration Profile. Appropriate equipment (software and other tools) will be offered to implement the toolkit; a Strategic Policy Planning workshop will be organized at the national level to promote greater migration policy coherence and the mainstreaming of migration into development and labour policy plans. Building on the Migration Profile, policy options to manage migration for the benefit of national development, inclusive of the PRSP framework, will be identified, designed and promoted by an inter-ministerial working group.

The concerned Moldovan institutions, including think-tanks will be encouraged to take ownership of this tool; a national migration observatory will be created, comprising relevant institutions. Establishing the Migration Profile will be an exercise involving capacity building measures which will allow Moldovan institutions to assume the ownership of the regular update of this report. The structures established to create technical working groups involving key government partners, independent research institutes and relevant international agencies to facilitate migration policy development will be self-sustaining. All activities will assist the government to use this tool for future policy development. IOM will engage other international stakeholders, with some of which it maintains a long-standing cooperation, including the European Commission, EU MS, ILO, World Bank, IMF, UNECE, OECD, UNHCR, ETF etc. The project will take into account and build on, rather than overlap with the respective agencies other projects, complementing *inter alia* the activities implemented by the European Training Foundation. Constant dialogue and coordination with other organizations will be maintained, to generate synergies and cultivate spin-offs. Expertise and best practices developed in EU MS will be largely employed in an effort to approximate the Moldovan with European standards.

B. Diaspora

As migration towards EU countries represents a financial investment, it is more often undertaken by qualified nationals and associated with plans of long-term stay and possibly permanent establishment. The Moldovan Government is keenly aware that it lacks the capacity to maintain contacts with and support Moldovans abroad, is losing its 'best' people and fails to make the most of its diaspora's resources. It has begun to map its diaspora, has developed an institutional framework for diaspora-homeland dialogue, and approved a diaspora National Action Plan (DNAP) and other policy documents targeting diaspora, but by and large the Government lacks resources and capacity to effectively manage the diaspora and maintain its ties to the homeland. Furthermore, consular officers have limited experience in diaspora outreach work, and often times fail to view the Moldovan migrant workers as their primary clients that require their support. Therefore the proposed action includes a capacity-building component aimed at improving information exchange channels between Moldova and its nationals abroad, and at raising officials' awareness of the diaspora's importance and capacities for outreach work.

Diaspora Associations represent another target of the proposed action, as they can be instrumental in the diaspora's self-management and in fostering cohesion of migrant communities as well as maintaining ties to the homeland. The project seeks to empower them for such activities and, in a second step, enable them to become vectors of productive investment of remittances, diaspora tourism, return migration, philanthropy and promotion of Moldova as a country in general. While diaspora associations are increasingly getting involved in local development work, these activities are still very small scale, and lack the professionalism required to maximize its full potential. Therefore an institutional capacity-building component tailored to their specific needs has been factored into the proposed action.

C. Returning migrants

Available information from research and informal sources indicate that most migrants that left since the 1990s intend to return to Moldova ultimately. However, expectations are that migration over the next few years is likely to be increasingly opportunity-led and could involve more permanent migration and a greater risk of brain drain². As a result of this trend, the Moldovan Government and society is increasingly concerned about the (permanent) loss of its human resources. The wave of migration from 2000 onwards already caused a major shortage of health care and education professionals, both essential sectors for human capital formation. A related problem is that many of these migrants have been working in fields outside of their profession (e.g. domestic care), and as a result their post-return reintegration into the local labor market has been fraught with challenges. Given the massive differentials between salaries in Moldova and EU Member States, there is a clear need for policy and concrete measures in order to actively stimulate return. Return is taking place for numerous different reasons, including those related to lack of documentation in countries of destination and worsening of the economic situation. Also, the above-mentioned current disproportion between the drop in remittances and the lesser number of returning migrants indicates that many migrants, having lost their jobs, still remain in destination countries in search of new job opportunities. To promote return among the latter group and to facilitate the sustainability of the returns in general, information about return and reintegration opportunities needs to be delivered in a targeted way in the countries of destination and the in-country system catering for returning migrants improved through development and implementation of a comprehensive basket of incentives for return and of measures of socio-economic reinsertion. Thus return can be built upon to address shortages in the local labor market. Furthermore, targeted temporary return measures – such as temporary return of expatriated Moldovan scientists to R&D oriented academic institutions and internship programs for students who have graduated from Universities abroad – can address aspects of brain-drain and have the potential to speed up development in Moldova by facilitating international skills transfers. Successful mobilization of the Moldovan diaspora's intellectual capacity can help realize Moldova's science plans despite an academic/scientific infrastructure which is crumbling under the influence of mass emigration of Moldovan scientists. The current “brain waste” occurring as highly skilled Moldovan professionals, especially in health and education areas, work abroad in jobs requiring a (sometimes much) lower qualification, calls for a requalification process after the return, to facilitate their professional reinsertion and avoid human capital loss.

D. Youth and women

Lack of economic opportunities is a primary reason for migration and the reluctance to return home, underscoring the close relationship between migration and development. Activities that are conducive to remedying the root causes of economically induced migration are important elements in a comprehensive approach to migration management and the effective linking of migration and development strategies. The challenge is to develop mechanisms in order to counteract as far as possible the loss of skilled young workers, whose departure undermines the development potential of their home countries. The results of IOM studies show a high inclination to migrate among young men and women aged 18-30, notably from a rural background, who do not have a stable job or acceptable income, and including many young graduates of vocational or educational environment. A large proportion of Moldovan migrants are young, with an average age of 35 in 2008 and over 37% aged below 30, while more than half of Moldovan migrants to EU are female. Preventing this group from migrating depends on the creation for them of an environment favorable and conducive to independent income generating activities, and on the availability of concrete business support. In the Strategy to Support SME Development, the Government of Moldova identified as one of the key issues facing the SME sector the low level of entrepreneurial abilities and poor development of business supportive infrastructure and stresses the need to foster entrepreneurial culture. This situation affects more strongly young potential entrepreneurs, who, besides lacking necessary skills and knowledge of management of resources, need instruction regarding access to financing and support in developing

² Patterns and Trends of Migration and Remittances in Moldova, IOM, 2007.

and implementing of their business projects. Youth entrepreneurship needs to be boosted by on the one hand enhancing the regulatory, normative and institutional environment and on the other hand by supporting pilot small business projects.

The need for enhancing the social protection of migrant workers by negotiating and concluding bilateral social security agreements between Moldova and main destination countries is obviated by the fact that after returning to the home country, migrants who have worked a period of time abroad and their family members, are not entitled to social security benefits. Under these conditions the migrant workers and their families often find themselves in a disadvantaged economic and social situation compared with citizens of destination countries, with their social security rights affected; moreover even the legal migrants lack the proper knowledge on the social, legal and health services available in the host countries and face linguistic barriers in accessing them. Moldovan Government intends to conclude social security agreements and arrangements with the European Member States, to protect economic and social rights of migrant workers and their family members. The present project will support the negotiation and conclusion of such bilateral social security agreements between Moldova and main destination countries. The project will be addressing the lack of proper guidance for Moldovan migrants by creating web-based interactive data provision tools in the native language, accessible free of charge and on anonymity basis.

E. Children and elderly persons left behind by migrants

Moldovan Government has set as one of its priorities the development of policies and initiatives aimed at supporting children and elderly left behind by migrants. Children of migrants and elderly members of the migrants' families tend to be subjects of discrimination and in danger of falling into social exclusion. This requires the elaboration and implementation of initiatives specifically designed for the protection and assistance of children and the elderly left behind, as well as the facilitation of family reunification. A UNICEF study reads that 20% of Moldovan children have at least one parent abroad and 10% have both parents abroad³. Within the children left behind, two groups with varying needs can be distinguished:

i) Children who face various problems ranging from their placement into residential institutions to extreme poverty, following both or one parent's emigration. Out of the children placed in residential institutions, 7% were children of migrant parents, according to a 2008 UNICEF report⁴. Children abandoned by their parents are particularly vulnerable and constitute the at-risk group for subsequent trafficking (at least 10 percent of trafficked women grew up in residential institutions and were trafficked after having left them).

ii) Children under a reduced poverty risk as a result of migrant parents transferring money to cover their livelihood costs. While this group's material wellbeing is ensured, the prolonged absence of parental care has a proven detrimental impact on their academic and moral development. In 14% of families with a migrant mother, nobody takes care of the children. Children left behind tend to be less socially well-adjusted than children whose parents are both present. In terms of emotional development, studies suggest that the absence of parents has a negative impact. The mothers' absence plays a greater role and affects children more. These children do not have a profile that fits other categories of children in need, e.g. they do not register on the radar of traditional social assistance services, as their needs are decidedly different and rarely linked with their economic situation. Identification of this category of children left behind and of their actual needs is fraught with challenges, as they do not correspond to the usual outlook and might not manifest the kind of symptoms that would be registered by any traditional outreach. Finally, children left behind tend to follow the example of their parents and migrate, often irregularly and unaccompanied, which further increases their vulnerability.

Previous studies⁵ found that in the absence of parents, the community and authorities were overall not prepared and did not fulfill their responsibilities in caring for and rearing the children left behind. Therefore, additional research is needed to deepen the analysis of their specific needs in order to effectively tailor the policy responses that need to be developed.

³ National Bureau of Statistics, UNICEF Child poverty profile, 2008 (Biroul National de Statistica, UNICEF Sărăcia copiilor, 2008)

⁴ The Impact Of Migration On Children in Moldova, UNICEF-UNDP 2008 (UNICEF-PNUD, Impactul migrației asupra comunității, familiilor și copiilor, 2008)

⁵ Ibid, see p. 20.

Regarding the elderly left behind, IOM Moldova statistics on victims of trafficking and stranded migrants steadily register persons over the age of 40 requiring rehabilitation and reintegration assistance. This proves that extreme poverty and/or health problems of the elderly can act as strong push factors to migrate, which entails the risk of being trafficked for exploitation purposes (e.g. begging). Elderly people's precarious material conditions and/or the presence of serious health problems requiring long and expensive treatment represent also a push factor for the migration of working age Moldovans, who leave in the hope to generate sufficient income allowing to improve the situation of parents and elderly relatives back home. Detecting such cases and providing consequent assistance can thus indirectly have a positive impact on voluntary returns, especially among those migrants who have less or no income-generating activity due to current economic downturn and remain abroad due to the dire need of helping family members left behind. Furthermore, the irregular status of many Moldovan migrants abroad means that their infrequent visits back home further endanger the well-being of the children and elderly persons left behind.

In addition to establishing of the general migration profile (see background under B above), the profiles of children and elderly persons left behind due to migration will emerge from the research, showing the quantitative and qualitative extent of the problem, the needs of the persons left behind will be identified. These data will be used to extend to the target group the National Referral System (NRS) for (potential) Victims of Trafficking and Domestic Violence, in order to address its urgent needs. The NRS⁶ is an instrument which has proven effective in providing necessary individual assistance in Moldova with the support and involvement of main stakeholders in counter-trafficking and prevention of domestic violence (civil society represented by local NGOs, IOs), and its methodology can easily be adapted to the children and elderly left behind.

F. Gender mainstreaming

In formulating this Project, the involved agencies will collectively and individually take into account and consider the gender field in Moldova from all possible perspectives. IOM has extensive experience in cooperating with other agencies in Moldova in developing the capacities of community actors and authorities in Moldova to promote rights based approaches and gender equality. Given that Moldova is a society where discrimination against women can be considered widespread⁷, IOM and its partners promote the role and status of women in the society, especially through the economic empowerment of women; a special project component will be focused on empowering vulnerable women to start their own business. The present project is therefore complementary to other IOM projects aimed at preventing domestic violence and trafficking (majority of victims of trafficking are young women suffering from poverty, domestic violence and unemployment). Furthermore, current counter-trafficking efforts are largely aimed at addressing trafficking for sexual exploitation and the services are accessed by female victims. Men who fall victim to exploitation are less likely to identify themselves in need of support services and therefore the labour exploitation of migrants is an under addressed phenomenon. This project will contribute to the prevention of exploitation of migrants' labour by sensitizing the stakeholders to the protection of migrants' rights; including men. The project activities will be carried out in a gender sensitive manner, taking into account the effect of traditional gender roles in the Moldovan society (e.g. ensuring women have access to trainings). In order to ensure this, a Human Rights Based Approach/Gender Mainstreaming training will be organized for implementation staff of all participating agencies. Gender mainstreaming has been taken into account in designing and formulating this Project, and it will continue to be an important factor in planning, monitoring, and evaluating activities and operational strategies.

⁶ The National Referral System (NRS) of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, for victims and potential victims of human trafficking, is an integrated system that provides comprehensive assistance to victims and vulnerable persons through referrals to local authorities and civil society service providers. The NRS was developed and started to be implemented in 2006 by the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and other central and local public authorities and NGOs, in partnership with IOM. The NRS Strategy was adopted by Parliament in late 2008. Since its launch the NRS has been piloted and is operational in 27 rayons and municipalities out of altogether 32 rayons, 3 municipalities and 2 territorial areas of Moldova. In 2008 the NRS has been thematically expanded to provide support to victims of domestic violence following the approval of Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. Furthermore, local identification, short- and long-term assistance structures (the multi-disciplinary teams - MDTs) are being integrated, strengthened and made more sustainable, and can be adapted to cater for the needs of the children and elderly left behind. The MDTs include rayon and community level social workers, law-enforcement bodies, teachers and educators, health professionals, psychologists and local public administration. After the recent reform, the NRS operation will be taken over by the newly created Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family.

⁷ See for example UNSR Report on violence against women, its causes and consequences, May 2008.

10. Moldovan National Policy Relevance

All the components of the proposed action are strictly in line with and supportive of the Republic of Moldova's policy priorities regarding migration, which are promoting the return of its lost labour force, improving its establishing contacts with diaspora and maximizing the developmental impact of capital and skills accumulated by Moldovans abroad. These national policy agendas are evidenced *inter alia* in:

- National Development Strategy for 2008-2011, which indicates the need to regulate migratory flows and to strengthen border management;
- The Plan of actions on fostering return of Moldovan labor migrants from abroad;
- Program of Actions for supporting persons born in the Republic of Moldova residing abroad (Moldova diaspora);
- National plan of actions on protecting citizens of the Republic of Moldova residing abroad;
- Action Plan on promoting the interests of Moldovan citizens in Italy and their connection with Moldova;
- Regulation on financial support meant for activities dealing with preserving national-cultural identity of persons originating from the Republic of Moldova residing abroad (Moldovan diaspora);
- State Program for Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises' Development during 2009 – 2011
- National strategy on employment policies for the years 2007-2015;
- National Programme on the Development of an Integrated System of Social Services for 2008 to 2012;
- National Plan on Preventing and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings during 2008-2009;
- Strategy of the National System of Referral for Protection and Assistance to Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Being for 2008-2016 and the Action Plan on Implementation of the Strategy for the years 2008-2011 and
- Regulation on Procedure for Repatriation of Children and Adults – Victims of Human Trafficking, Illegal Migrants' Trafficking, as well as Unaccompanied Children.

The MFAEI, MET and other institutions explicitly requested IOM to provide capacity-building support to the Moldovan Government to further its goal to increase diaspora involvement in national development processes and foster the return of labor migrants.

The present project proposal builds on the conclusions and experience gained in an EC funded and Italian co-funded project, titled "Beyond Poverty Alleviation: Developing a Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for Leveraging Migrant Remittances for Entrepreneurial Growth in Moldova", implemented in Moldova by IOM and ILO in the years 2007-2009. The objective of the project was to help the Moldovan Government develop a sound legal, regulatory and institutional framework, which would enhance the impact of remittances on economic development by facilitating increased investment of migrant resources in SMEs in the Republic of Moldova. This project is designed to complement other ongoing initiatives in the Mobility Partnership context, *inter alia* the Swedish Public Employment Project (SPES), funded by EC, titled "Strengthening the Moldova capacity to manage labour and return migration within the framework of the mobility partnership with the EU".

The Migration Profile component of the present project is based on IOM experience and expertise developed while working on a series of Migration Profiles for non EU Member States in South-Eastern Europe: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia (including Kosovo Province) and Turkey; IOM produced Migration Profiles also for all the countries part of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation; work is ongoing on Migration Profiles of Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador and a number of countries in Western and Central Africa with EC funding.

11. Relevance to the EU policy context

The linkage between migration and development was placed firmly on the international agenda through the convening of the High-Level UN Dialogue on Migration and Development, which was held in New York in September 2006 (with follow-up meetings in Brussels and Manila in 2007 and 2008 respectively). The need for enhanced coherence between countries' migration management and development policy agenda is unanimously recognized and the migration/development nexus figures importantly in the EU policy documents, and EU systematically puts the migration-development nexus on the agenda of its political dialogue⁸.

⁸ See the EU Commission Communication (2002), titled "Integrating Migration Issues in the European Union's Relations with Third Countries".

The project framework is built around a number of identified EC policy themes on migration and development⁹: (1) co-funding schemes for projects with diaspora organizations, (2) diaspora as actors of home country development, (3) mitigating the adverse effect of brain drain, and (4) facilitating return migration. The following policy areas prioritized by the EC have been incorporated into the proposed action:

- Co-funding schemes (providing funding to joint projects by diaspora organisations – from Member States – and local organisations so as to support local development in communities of origin)
- Helping developing countries map their diasporas and build links with them
- Temporary return of migrants, especially highly qualified professionals and students
- Facilitating return migration, through support for integration measures returnees
-

The Migration Profile component of the project takes into account the EU Commission Communication on Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighboring the European Union, the EU Council Conclusions on the evaluation of the Global Approach to Migration and on the partnership with countries of origin and transit, as well as the recent EU Commission communication on strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies.

The proposed action is furthermore fully in line with the core objectives of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership. The mobility partnership is a framework consisting of a coherent and coordinated package of initiatives combining measures aimed at facilitating legal migration opportunities with those reducing illegal immigration and those addressing the migration and development dimension. The mobility partnership with the Republic of Moldova was launched formally in June 2008. Many of the initiatives included in the Joint Declaration are addressed through Member States' bilateral initiatives or through the intervention of the EC thematic program for Migration and Asylum. However, the objectives related to migration and development that constitute a priority for the Government of the Republic of Moldova were not addressed through these means, and further resources are needed to support their appraisal and their implementation.

In specific, the proposed Action would support implementation of the Mobility Partnership migration and development priorities through facilitating the development and implementation of policies, programs and activities in Moldova aimed at:

- (i) Enhancing the social protection of legal migrants, including by means of bilateral social protection agreements; promoting the transfer of social security benefits;
- (ii) Supporting voluntary return, sustainable reintegration of returning migrants; informing Moldovan citizens abroad about the labour market situation and work opportunities in their home country, as well as return possibilities; building up cooperation on the training of returning migrant workers; developing entrepreneurship;
- (iii) Preventing, reducing and counteracting the negative effects of the brain drain and brain waste, including through return policies targeting specific categories of Moldovan migrants and through adoption of codes of ethical recruitment, and through the promotion of the return of highly-skilled Moldovan citizens; exchange of students, researchers and specialists;
- (iv) Enhancing cooperation with Moldovan communities abroad, strengthening the links with the diaspora and reaching out for its support; working on the financial sector to create the conditions for boosting the diaspora's investment in their home country through twinning projects, loan and transfer facilitation and targeted remittance schemes enhancing the development impact of migrant workers' money transfers; and
- (v) Monitoring migration flows by elaborating and updating a comprehensive monitoring mechanism which will offer detailed information on migratory flows and stocks as well as on the impact of migration on the Moldovan labour market in general, and on its skills pool in particular.

The Project is in accordance with the ENPI Republic of Moldova Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013, stipulating that EU assistance shall support "... effective management of migratory flows". Also, the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan foresaw cooperation in priority JHA issues including migration (legal/illegal migration, readmission) and border management.

⁹ "Migration and Development: Some Concrete Orientations", Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. September 2005. See also EU position on Preparation of the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, July 2006.

Hereby the proposal is also consistent with the ENPI Annual Action Programme 2008 which emphasizes specifically the need for actions aiming at improving border and migration management in the Republic of Moldova by supporting the implementation of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership.

Falling under the action 2, "Justice, Liberties and Security – Improving border and migration management in the Republic of Moldova" the proposed action contributes to improvement of standards in the Justice, Liberties and Security field in the Republic of Moldova through targeted interventions in line with the EU-Republic of Moldova Action Plan, by comprehensively addressing priorities such as: establishment of a Migration Profile; sustainable reintegration of migrants; creation of opportunities of managing entrepreneurial activities; support the establishment of policies and programs for encouraging return of Moldovan migrants; preventing youth migration; remittances; diaspora links; labour-market matching for potential migrants etc. EC has also suggested the inclusion of a project component addressing the needs of the vulnerable groups left behind as a result of mass migration, particularly children and elderly, following the request of the Moldovan side to give priority to the issue, aired at Mobility Partnership Cooperation Platform session in May 2009.

Finally, the present proposal is also in line with the EU Return Directive which gives priority to voluntary return over the forced return. The document aimed at fixing clear, transparent and fair rules to provide for an effective return policy as a necessary element of a well managed European migration policy.

12. Activities

The project is divided in four broad components.

The **first component** will be working to support the implementation of the EU Moldova Mobility Partnership by consolidating the institutional framework of the Mobility Partnership Cooperation Platform and establishing of a Migration Profile.

1.1.1 Establishing of a Migration Technical Facility

To support the operation of the Migration Management institutional framework, a special Technical Facility will be created, to support the national institutions currently assuming leading and subsidiary functions in managing migration¹⁰. The Migration Technical Facility (MTF) will act as a service and logistical support centre on behalf of the organizations participating in the process and will provide a forum for discussion, administrative and expert services, and will facilitate experience and information sharing in the context of implementation of the national migration management policy documents, specifically by providing logistics support to organizing seminars, conferences and technical meetings,.. The Unit will provide support to the involved Moldovan institutions, working to facilitate and enhance cooperation, information-sharing and contacts between Moldovan institutions. The Unit will work on administrative/logistical/financial matters, maintain information distribution mechanisms between participating institutions through regular sharing of statistics, migration trends, policy developments, legislation, via a newsletter and when requested. The Unit will draft the agenda of the reunions (which will be approved by the MET and MOI),

1.2.1 Establishing a Migration Profile

The present project will build the capacity of the national structures to enable them to establish a sustainable Migration Profile, through the following project activities:

- i) Establishing inter-ministerial, inter-agency working groups at national level, and technical sub-groups on key migration policy themes that will develop and implement the Migration Profile and promote strategic policy planning;
- ii) Defining standardized indicators for a template of a Migration Profile that will allow for more comparative analysis of migration data and policies. The definition of indicators will be undertaken by relevant authorities at the national and regional levels in close cooperation with international stakeholders and calling upon qualified expertise;
- iii) Auditing existing information and data on the indicators selected. Furthermore, the audit will also include a review of the results of analyses of the various areas that are relevant for migration policy such as labour oversupply and shortages, skills transfer and maximizing productive use of

¹⁰ Namely the Ministry of Economy and Trade, with its Migration Policy Division and the National Employment Agency, and the Ministry of Interior's Bureau for Migration and Asylum. Besides these two entities, a number of other public institutions are involved in adjacent functions related to managing the migration process (such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Border Guards Service, Ministry of Information Development).

remittances, as well as the specific needs of the children and elderly left behind. A national research team shall be identified to conduct the audit.

- iv) Completing the migration profiles by pilot-testing data collection methodology/template and conducting a targeted study on gaps identified in the audit. The targeted research will focus on issues of particular concern to government, such as the effectiveness of the migration and development policy framework of the country, emigration and immigration trends, internal migration trends, return migration, profile and skills of the diaspora, remittances, labour market situation, anticipated skills needs and skills shortages, gender and minors, children and elderly left behind etc.

1.2.2 Comprehensive mapping of the Moldovan diaspora

As part of the Migration Profile exercise the project will support comprehensive mapping of the Moldovan diaspora through a comprehensive and systematic research, so as to concretely define the target group, identify viable project partners and adjust and eventually help with enhancing the communication modalities employed for outreach to Moldovan citizens abroad. Several methods of data collection will be used by the Mapping Exercise Assistants, including in-depth interviews with multipliers who have access to a broad base of community members, and the dissemination and collection of questionnaires within those communities.

1.2.3 Ensuring sustainability and national ownership of the Migration Profile

The project will implement a set of capacity building activities to ensure the national ownership and sustainability of the Migration Profile as a national policy instrument:

- i) Developing a national training curricula and a toolkit of self-teaching training modules to strengthen the capacity of the government to implement and regularly update the Migration Profile. Appropriate equipment (software and other tools) will be offered to implement the toolkit;
- ii) Organizing a Strategic Policy Planning workshop at the national level to promote greater migration policy coherence and the mainstreaming of migration into development and labour policy plans.
- iii) Building on the Migration Profile, policy options to manage migration for the benefit of national development, inclusive of the PRSP framework, will be identified, designed and promoted by the inter-ministerial working group.

The **second component** seeks to improve the out-reach capacities of Moldovan consular staff to the Moldovan diaspora – thus reinforcing ties of the diaspora members with Moldova – and to build the capacity of diaspora associations to get actively involved in homeland development.

2.1.1 Training of Consular Officers

To address the lack of MFAEI in-house human resource development capacity, the project will support the development of a training curriculum for in-house tuition of entry-level consular officers/re-qualification of long-serving officers. The curriculum will be tested by organising training programs for Consular Officers on *inter alia* diaspora networking, migrant protection, out-of country voting, bilateral labor migration programs, return programs etc. This program will be institutionalized so as to become the basis of an annual training for all new staff of the MFAEI and subsequent refreshment courses. The project will offer the possibility to consolidate the knowledge and skills gained in the course by internships in EU Member States consular missions. The project activities will complement other on-going initiatives of EU MS, including those of Czech Republic and Hungary geared at supporting the delivery of regular consular services by Moldovan missions abroad.

2.1.2 Support to Labour attaches establishment

The project will also support the establishment of labour attachés stationed at Moldova's embassies in key European Union destination countries by of training a pool of diplomats who can take on the respective function. These labour attaches will study the labour markets in the destination countries concerned, identify needs for foreign labour, identify potential countries with whom to negotiate formal labour agreements and engage with public and private agencies to promote the availability of qualified work force from Moldova able to fill these needs on a short term.

2.2.1 Enhancing Moldova's Channels of Communication with the diaspora

In response to repeated and specific requests from the Moldovan MFAEI, the project will support content and design improvement, as well as integration, of www.mfa.md and www.diaspora.md. The www.diaspora.md site will be expanded with information for Moldovan nationals abroad, e.g. banking, finance, investment and tax regulations, remittances channels, pension and social security schemes, out-of-country registration and voting, return programs, public health information, and information about the dangers of trafficking and irregular migration. The diaspora site will also allow for creation and on-line management of database of diaspora Associations; and it will serve as forum for sharing

"diaspora news and events". Support to the MFAEI website would include the streamlining of the different Embassy websites into a unified format and expansion of the Consular sections. Each Embassy will be assisted in creating an on-line free registration facility for Moldovan nationals abroad.

2.2.2 Developing of a networking communication system for consular offices

The project, following recurring express requests of Moldovan MFAEI, will support the development in collaboration of IOM with MFAEI of a new networking communication system for consular offices, targeting the specific needs of Moldovan diaspora/temporary migrants abroad. The system will consist of an integrated system of different communication means such as a dedicated and secure web-based direct data exchange line, implementation of a unified e-mail format, Internet forums etc. which will be further integrated into the existing electronic information and communication systems of these institutions.

2.3.1 Building institutional capacity of Migrant Associations

With the aim of increasing the Moldovan diaspora's self-management capacities, a number of Migrant Associations will receive targeted capacity building on how to realize their potential role of organizers/purveyors of information among Moldovans abroad. A grant mechanism will provide funding for innovative projects aimed at increasing the internal organization, cohesion and well-being of diaspora communities, especially through creation or improvement of Migrant Associations' own media outlets/web based communication platforms.

2.3.2 Harnessing Migrant Associations for Homeland development activities

In partnership with MFAEI, the project will organize workshops for a number of diaspora Association representatives, with the aim to expand activities on behalf of Moldova's development. The workshop will cover: registering and managing Homeland Associations, fund-raising, media, collaboration with Embassies, educational and cultural programming, tourism, philanthropy, trade promotion and investment, social protection and pension transfers.

2.3.3 Designing a Homeland- diaspora Development Fund for investment in homeland communities

As a pilot application of activity 2.3.1 and in order to concretely encourage migrant associations with advanced institutional capacities as well as individual migrants to invest remittances and accumulated know-how to help homeland communities, innovative pilot projects targeting particularly local communities will receive grants/matching funding and appropriate support and monitoring services. Currently the positive impact of migrant organizations that are constructively engaged in development initiatives depends mainly on the transfer of remittances. One way to enhance the involvement of the diaspora in development processes in Moldova is for governmental and international organizations to provide matching funds for such financial transfers that are put to effective developmental use. Accordingly, a Homeland- diaspora Development Fund will be established jointly with the Moldovan government. The Fund will award up to ten grants that will aim to apply innovative models to further diaspora partnerships for development.

The **third component** will be working at enhancing the capacity of the Moldovan Government to develop and implement programs for promotion and facilitation of the return and professional reintegration of qualified Moldovans through up-grading of the in-country system targeting migrant returnees and creation of a set of measures facilitating the return and socio-economic reintegration of various groups of returning migrants.

3.1.1 Promoting the return of migrants through up-grading of communication infrastructure between the Government in Chisinau and migrant communities

To allow for an effective promotion of return, the system for provision of information regarding the return and reintegration opportunities in the Republic of Moldova will be consolidated to provide info to migrants and returnees on return and reintegration options within Moldova. A mass information campaign will target the potential returning migrants in the main countries of destination.

3.1.2 Stimulating Return and Reinsertion into Labour Market in Moldova

Packages of return incentives for migrants to employ the financial and human capital accumulated abroad at home (maximizing developmental aspects), will be developed and tested through provision of support services to facilitate business start-ups including vocational training, assistance in business strategy planning, accounting, taxation, licensing, quality standards, raising knowledge about loans and other financial services, procurement of professional equipment etc.

3.2.1 Creating temporary professional placements for Moldovan overseas graduates to promote definitive return and skill transfer

By encouraging the (temporary) return of Moldovan graduates from universities abroad, the Government will promote the circulation of innovative ideas and processes, and expand social “networks” that can further cross-border relations. Thus, a pilot program will be implemented that will offer overseas Moldovan graduates professional placements of between three and six months in Moldova’s public and private sector. The project will provide a monthly living allowance to participants, as well as cover other costs.

3.2.2 Addressing brain-drain and strengthening Moldova as a Research & Development hub through temporary return of expatriated Moldovan scientists

This project will support a pilot initiative, identifying 30 leading Moldovan diaspora scientists to undertake a temporary assignment in Moldova at a local research/academic institution. These returnees will be of symbolic importance, and will be featured in an anti-brain drain public information campaign, which will aim to stem the migration culture, especially the sentiment among young Moldovans that there is “no future” in Moldova. Additionally, a database featuring all interested candidates will be designed and which will form the basis for designing follow-up programming. The activity will be implemented in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, which will develop 30 terms of references for the temporary placement of the Moldovan experts. The project will provide living allowance to participants, as well as cover other costs. This component will build upon and expand the sectorial and geographic span of the Returning Experts Program run by the CIM <http://www.zav-reintegration.de/> for return of Moldovans who acquired their qualification in Germany.

3.3.1 Strengthening the links of the Organization of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) with local authorities responsible for supporting the SME sector to consolidate their regional outreach capacity. Providing capacity building for officials, enhancing their ability to consult young self-starting entrepreneurs and thereby contribute to local development, poverty reduction and prevention of irregular migration.

3.3.2 Enhancing the capacity of the national and local SME support structures to comprehensively cater for the needs of youth and women entrepreneurs through establishment of a Referral System (SMERS) for SME between all active agents in SME sector (including Micro Finance Institutions, banks, Saving and Credit Associations, Government institutions, local authorities, business service providers).

3.3.3 Entrepreneurship support to youth and women. Offering to 200 Moldovans in the target group (youth and women) entrepreneurial training and consulting, preferential loans with a non-refundable grant component and ensuring monitoring of the implementation of the small business projects. The project will take into account and build on, rather than overlap with the other agencies’ projects, *inter alia* the activities implemented in the past by the World Bank and UNICEF (PASET programme).

3.4.1 Provision of targeted information to Moldovan migrants on social entitlements in host countries

IOM will upgrade the Moldovan migration website www.migratie.md, so as to allow the creation of an interactive and continuously up-dated system for offering targeted information on social entitlements to Moldovan migrants in destination countries. The system will have a user friendly interface, offering in an accessible manner information in the most used languages of Moldova, tailored to the specific needs of Moldovan migrants. The system will be based on innovative data collection, processing and sharing algorithms, which will make possible for migrants to obtain concrete answers or referrals to other data providers on issues such as: legal assistance, social benefits portability, health services and insurance, documentation and other consular assistance, IOM’s assisted voluntary return and reintegration services, education and childcare. IOM Moldova will respectively review the design and the content management of the web-site so that it is further used as an effective tool for disseminating the information and awareness-raising. IOM will also assure the visibility of the EU immigration portal on the website. The project will pay due attention to the copyrights on the information posted on the websites of the public institutions of EU MS or on other third-party sources, catering for the cases when the data is not open-source and is protected against free quotation.

3.4.2 Negotiation of bilateral labour and social security agreements

Moldovan Government (Ministry of Economy and Trade and Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child) will be supported for negotiation of Bilateral Labour and Social Security Agreements with a number of countries. A special training for Moldovan Government officials will be provided for the negotiation teams for the Bilateral Labour and Social Security Agreements, which will target the development of their knowledge of negotiation techniques for this type of agreements. Following the

training on negotiation skills, negotiation of the bilateral labour and social security agreements will be supported by facilitated trips of the Moldovan negotiation teams to the selected countries.

The **fourth component** will target direct needs of most vulnerable persons left behind by migrants – their children and elderly relatives and will enhance the capacities of the national and local authorities to cope with a relatively new phenomenon by thematic extension and revision of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) within the already functional National Referral System of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child. The project will take into account and build on, rather than overlap with other initiatives, *inter alia*, the activities implemented in the past and currently by UNDP and UNICEF, with which IOM maintains a close coordination.

4.1.1 Reviewing and expanding the existing NRS operated by the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (after the recent reform to be taken over by the newly created Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family)¹¹, based on the profiling of special needs of the target group carried out under the Migration Profile exercise, so as to allow targeted identification and assistance to children and elderly persons left behind. Rayons and communities for the specialized research on the children and elderly left behind component of the Migration Profile will be selected according to the highest prevalence of children and elderly left behind, as indicated by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior statistics. The SOPs will be revised in line with the findings and recommendations of the research so as to effectively include the new target group in the operation of the MDTs¹². The up-dated methodology and new tools will be conveyed to the MDTs through the existing system of regular social protection round tables.

4.1.2 Pilot-testing of identification through rayon and community level MDTs and referral for individually tailored assistance through the National Coordination Unit of the MSPFC (MLSPF under the new Government structure). Implementation of 300 individual medium and long-term (re)integration assistance plans for children and elderly persons left behind through rayon and community level MDTs of the NRS, on case-management basis.

4.1.3 Offering crisis intervention or short-term rehabilitation measures to the children and elderly left behind referred from all regions of Moldova (including Transnistria) through the Chisinau Assistance and Protection Center (CAPC) within the existing NRS Recovery programme. The project will partially support the cost of the CAPC operation, to cover the service costs for an additional number of beneficiaries.

13. Estimated results (outputs)

First Component

1.1.1 The Migration Technical Facility established to consolidate the current Migration Management institutional framework; newsletters regularly published and circulated on the development and progress of implementation of migration management initiatives.

1.2.1 Strategic Policy Planning inter-ministerial and -agency group established at national level to review findings of the Migration Profile and coordinate data collection and migration policy planning, including on migration and development, within and between Government departments and relevant stakeholders; a technical working group created at national level to service the national level planning process, which will each meet eight times (every 4 months); standardized indicators for a template of a Migration Profile and methods of data collection at national level developed to allow for better comparative analysis of migration trends and policies at the regional level; national expert research teams identified and the audit of existing information and data on the selected indicators completed; data collection methodology/template pilot-tested and a targeted study on gaps identified in the audit conducted; a comprehensive data stock established, offering information on various categories of migrants: emigrants, immigrants and return migrants, as well as children and elderly members of migrants' families left behind; profile of the specific needs of the latter target group obtained; a comprehensive country Migration Profile prepared.

1.2.2 Following the execution of the Mapping of diaspora Exercise the following comprehensive information established about diaspora communities: a) Approximate size and geographical spread; b) Preferred media: TV, radio, newspapers and websites; c) In which languages they would like to receive publications and where such materials should be distributed (e.g. libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaus, health centers and churches); d) The community leaders to whom diaspora members turn for advice.

¹¹ For a description of the NRS of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, see footnote 6 on page 6.

¹² For a description of the MDTs, see footnote 6 on page 6.

1.2.3 A national workshop to promote information sharing and policy dialogue between and within the targeted countries organized; a national training curriculum and a tool-kit of self-teaching training modules on data collection and analysis to strengthen existing data management developed; appropriate equipment (software and other tools) offered to implement the toolkit; building on the Migration Profile, policy options to manage migration for the benefit of national development, inclusive of the PRSP framework, identified, designed and promoted.

Second Component

2.1.1 The competence of Moldovan MFAEI consular officers to implement diaspora policies raised through appropriate training and exposure to European expertise.

2.1.2 Establishment of labour attachés stationed at Moldova's embassies in key European Union destination countries supported by providing training to a pool of selected diplomats.

2.2.1 Effective diaspora-homeland channels for accessing and exchanging information established through support for the upgrading of Moldovan Government website and improvement of the government's networking/out-reach capability. Migrants, potential migrants and the diaspora sensitized to labour exploitation.

2.2.2 Networking communication system within and among the RM diplomatic missions created, to consult the RM citizens in need of assistance.

2.3.1 Diaspora associations enabled to contribute to diaspora self-management and awareness of their potential beneficial role as focal point for Moldovans abroad raised.

2.3.2 Diaspora-homeland partnerships for development strengthened by building capacity of migrant associations to become active in support of local development in Moldova through provision of targeted training.

2.3.3 Involvement of the diaspora in development processes in Moldova enhanced by providing grants/matching funds for innovative pilot projects that aim to put diaspora assets to effective developmental use, particularly in local communities.

Third Component

3.1.1 Information centers within the RM diplomatic missions consolidated and enabled to effectively promote return through up-graded system for provision of comprehensive information to migrants and returnees regarding the return and reintegration opportunities in the Republic of Moldova.

3.1.2 A comprehensive basket of incentives for return and support services for the reintegration of (potential) returning professionals developed as a step towards a National Reintegration Program and implementation framework tested, providing reintegration services to returning migrants.

3.2.1 Internship program developed and operated for 30 overseas Moldovan graduates, facilitating their post-graduation return and integration in Moldovan labor market.

3.2.2 Return of Highly Qualified Nationals program in Moldova developed and operated on a pilot basis with 30 participants. Participants featured in an anti-brain drain information campaign, a database of interested candidates developed (which will form the basis for design follow-up programming), a website developed for ongoing networking between Moldovan diaspora scientists around the world, a final brain-gain policy seminar will be organized in Chisinau with participation of Moldovan Government representatives, academic and research institutions and selected participants in the program; at the seminar, the evaluation of the pilot project will be presented.

3.3.1 National and local SME support structures' capacity to foster the development of entrepreneurial culture and modern business consulting services enhanced through targeted capacity building.

3.3.2 Through the SMERS, services harmonized and streamlined, a platform for evaluation of micro-finance and SME sector provided, the overall effectiveness and transparency of MFI services enhanced through better coordination and linkages, and chances of securing credit for clientele increased through transfers application to Micro Finance Institutions part of the SMERS.

3.3.3 Two hundred women and young Moldovans received entrepreneurial training and monitoring in establishing operational micro enterprises. Rural women and youth in general provided with a positive model and sensitized on the different options that exist in terms of establishing a small business, thus contributing to counter-trafficking and empowerment of the vulnerable part of Moldovan society.

3.4.1 Moldovan migration website www.migratie.md upgraded, an interactive and continuously updated system created offering targeted information in Romanian (Moldovan) and Russian on social entitlements to Moldovan migrants in destination countries such as: legal assistance, social benefits portability, health services and insurance, documentation and other consular assistance, IOM's assisted voluntary return and reintegration services, education and childcare. The design and the

content management of the web-site reviewed for effective dissemination of information and awareness-raising.

3.4.2 Moldovan Government officials trained and provided support for negotiation of Bilateral Labour and Social Security Agreements with a number of countries.

Fourth Component

4.1.1 The existing NRS of the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child reviewed and expanded, based on the special needs profile of the target group obtained through the Migration Profile exercise. Specialized research on the children and elderly left behind component of the Migration Profile carried out in selected rayons and communities and results factored as new tools into the existing NRS identification and assistance methodology. SOPs revised to include the new target group in the operation of the MDTs and up-dated methodology conveyed to the MDTs through the system of social protection round tables.

4.1.2 Mechanism of rayon and community level identification and referral for individually tailored assistance of children and elderly persons left behind pilot-tested in collaboration with the National Coordination Unit of the MSPFC (MLSPF under the new Government structure). On a case-management basis, 300 individual medium and long-term (re)integration assistance plans devised and implemented by rayon and community level MDTs of the NRS.

4.1.3 The Chisinau Assistance and Protection Center (CAPC) enabled to deliver crisis intervention and short-term rehabilitation measures to a number of 150 children and elderly left behind within the NRS Recovery programme.

14. Expected Impact on Target Groups (outcomes) and sustainability

The Project has a strong good governance dimension since consolidation of administrative capacities and awareness of EU policies contribute to improvement of democratic standards of governance while the human resources management will improve the implementing staff's service culture towards better client orientation.

Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership will contribute to minimizing the negative effects of migration and to harness the benefits of migration for development purposes. These efforts are centered on improving the Moldovan Government and diaspora groups' capacity to enhance the development impact of diaspora-homeland partnerships and return migration. Consequent to the completion of activities, the situation of the beneficiaries will improve in numerous areas. The national Migration Management institutional framework will be consolidated by establishing of a special unit, to support and improve the coordination and information sharing mechanism and enhancing the direct contacts/bilateral dialogue between the participating Moldovan institutions. The integrated set of capacity-building activities will make a strong-felt contribution towards the development of analytical abilities and specialized knowledge of selected Government staff and diaspora activists, which will serve to improve the overall quality of work undertaken by these institutions and associations in the long run, within the framework of national strategies on migration and development. The project shall enhance the capacity of national administrations to measure, monitor and analyze migration flows (inward, outward and domestic) and the ways this affects the national and regional development process. The Migration Profile will help to strengthen the Government's ability to evaluate and improve its migration policies and development planning through strategic planning workshops and training and enhanced data collection efforts. A number of mechanisms, such as a national support network for data collection and standardized template of indicators, will be put into place to assist the Government in regularly updating the Migration Profile and gradually assuming full national ownership of the instrument. The Migration Profile will be used for comprehensive monitoring of impact of the Mobility Partnership. The ability of Government, specialized agencies and other stakeholders to devise and implement policies and assistance measures specifically targeting various groups of migrants will be enhanced through the availability of comprehensive and continuously updated data stock. Representing a special added value of the Migration Profile exercise, the in-depth analysis of the profile of children and elderly left behind will permit to directly support a number of beneficiaries. It will also allow to integrate identification and assistance mechanisms addressing the beneficiaries into a pre-existing, progressively Government-owned and thus sustainable social protection system.

The Government of Moldova will obtain a comprehensive diaspora action plan with a systematic monitoring mechanism; each Government institution will be prepared to assume its responsibilities within the framework of this action plan. Exposure to international best practices, technical expertise and trainings will all contribute to greater creativity in diaspora programming – based on improved

information and data. MFAEI field staff will gain tools in implementing diaspora policies, networking with and mobilizing of diaspora communities, and assisting migrants with a service-oriented attitude. MFAEI will significantly improve its capacity for inter-agency coordination, policy-development, monitoring and reporting, as well as its infrastructure to communicate effectively with Moldovans outside Moldova.

Diaspora/Migrant Associations, at the end of the project will have greater capacity to support the Government with implementation of policies affecting diaspora communities and will be involved to a much greater extent in the development of Moldova. Migrants themselves will receive support to temporarily return to Moldova, and the employers and colleagues will benefit from the skills and experience they bring with them. The situation of migrants will also improve indirectly as a result of this Action through better services at the consulates, better access to information about policies and programs that affect them and will be generally empowered to become involved in homeland development processes.

This project will directly contribute to the task set by the Government to foster the development of entrepreneurial culture and modern services improvement in business consulting, as well as contribute to local development, poverty reduction and prevention of irregular migration and trafficking, through job creation and offering of opportunities for sustainable livelihood.

The participants in this project will contribute to fostering links between migration and development by transferring their knowledge, experience, and capabilities to colleagues in Moldova, by promoting the integration of new information and communication technologies into Moldovan economy and higher education; by promoting unbiased intercultural perspectives in Moldova's education system; by building partnerships for research, innovation and entrepreneurship, providing access to international innovation networks and professional knowhow, and, thus, stimulating knowledge and skills circulation. Particularly, participants will initiate joint cross-border research and development projects that would be submitted for funding under research-related EU initiatives and other EC calls for proposals. Consequently, the diaspora homeland partnerships created through this project between scientists and professionals in Moldova and countries of destination of Moldovan diaspora will form the basis for ongoing collaboration within the framework of EC funding mechanisms in the field of research and development.

The administrative capacity of the authorities of the Republic of Moldova will be supported, especially through training of staff, to promote and strengthen the legal migration entry channels, protection of labour migrants and transfer of social security benefits by means of negotiating and concluding bilateral labour and social security agreements with main countries of destination, the final goal being the protection of the migrant workers' rights and reduction of irregular migration. The participating agencies' capacity to consider and implement gender mainstreaming will be enhanced.

This project is designed to complement, cross-cut and cross-fertilize with ongoing Government diaspora-oriented activities such as the Moldovan Government's development of an institutional framework for diaspora-homeland dialogue and the diaspora National Action Plan. Apart from advancing the priorities of the Action Plan and improving coordination between the agencies involved in its execution, this project will also contribute to the implementation of other strategies tangent to the subject of diaspora relations and return migration, such as the National Strategy of Edification of the Informational Society. The Action will contribute to general capacity improvements among Government officials and migrant associations, beyond the migration & development focus of this project. For example, trained consular officials will be more client-oriented, and the improved capacity of migrant associations will also further their involvement in the field of integration or migrant rights, which is not directly the focus of this program. Similarly, while the Action will invest in the diaspora content of MFAEI/BIER websites, these sites will be generally strengthened through this program. Furthermore, the diaspora-homeland development fund, as well as all the return activities, will have direct positive impact on local development. Through its social assistance and protection dimension, the project will contribute as well to alleviating negative social consequences of migration. The project will consolidate the capacity and regional outreach of the national and local SME support structures. Finally, the lessons learned through evaluation of the various innovative pilot interventions may contribute to multiple applications inside Moldova.